Informal Interpretation Report
Number 6926

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Section 1006.2.3.5

Question:

Is it the intent of 1006.2.3.5 to require that the emergency lighting system and required illumination be continuous without interruption through the startup of an emergency generator system installed in accordance with FBC and NFPA?

Answer

No. Additionally, 1006.2.2 mandates that 10 second max change over which in effect creates a mandate for a Type 10 system matching the NFPA 101 language. The battery backup instant-on lights are not required if the generator can establish emergency power in ten seconds.

Commentary:

The FFPC NFPA 101 section 7.9.2.2 specifies that new emergency power systems for emergency lighting be at least Type 10, Class 1.5, Level 1. This would mean that restoration of power must occur within 10 seconds. As a further note, the high-rise provisions in NFPA 11.8.5.2.1 mandates a minimum Type 60, Class 1, Level 1. Therefore, it appears if the system is providing power to the emergency lighting system, a minimum Type 10, Class 1.5, Level 1 system must be provided.

Notice:
The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.